

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20306

SECRET

December 5, 1972

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED,
6/26/03

MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. BRONSON TWEEDY, CHAIRMAN
NSCIC WORKING GROUP

FROM: A. W. Marshall *AM*

SUBJECT: Lam Son 719

I recommend discontinuation of efforts to review the intelligence support to Lam Son 719. George Fiske of DIA is to be commended for the effort he put forth to begin this review of a sensitive intelligence topic and I am reluctant to set aside this interesting case study. However, a number of considerations push me in the direction of the above recommendation. One is the reluctance and resistance I detect to staffing the study and getting it underway with sufficient drive. Notable here has been the case of the CIA's inability to assign anyone. General Thomas has offered one of his two people, but I am reluctant to tie up his now very limited resources.

Secondly, I am reluctant to start additional studies until I see some sign that they are likely to provide a searching and critical review of the selected topic. My experience thus far in conducting several of the NSCIC studies leads me to believe that producing first-rate studies is inordinately difficult and time consuming under current arrangements. Either the spirit and energy with which studies are carried out by teams mainly drawn from the intelligence community has to change, or the studies will have to be staffed in some other way. The Yugoslav study is being conducted in part as an experiment in another way of staffing the NSCIC studies. Perhaps it will be more successful.

I feel that we may have a real problem in effectively carrying out the NSCIC task of providing a continuing review of the intelligence community product. I mentioned at the last Working Group meeting my concern about the support the studies receive. I am especially concerned about the evident lack of a strong capability for self-criticism within the community. You and I should talk soon about these matters. I plan to explore options with some of the other Working Group members.

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DECLAS - Impossible to determine

BYAUTH - General A. Haig